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PR experiments using power of space vehicles

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio —-Travis Michalak (left) and 2nd Lt. Ryan Claycamp monitor a Propulsion Directorate experiment aboard a specially equipped NASA KC-135A that simulates microgravity, or weightlessness, conditions in space. The two endured as many as 160 parabolic flight maneuvers to simulate weightlessness in an effort to find new ways to combat the ever-increasing problem of space thermal management - the cooling of powerful electronic devices used in space vehicles like satellites, the space shuttle and the International Space Station. Led by Dr. Kirk Yerkes, an expert in heat transfer and fluid mechanics engineering, the team's challenge is to remove the heat generated by the more powerful semiconductors and electronic devices that will power the next-generation of space vehicles. (Air Force photo)